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ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to receptors for heat shock proteins (HSPs), such as gp96, Hsp70 and Hsp90. The receptor is associated with the cell membranes of a subset of antigen presenting cells, such as macrophages, dendritic cells.

The invention provides methods for identifying and isolating cells that express the heat shock protein receptor, the heat shock protein receptor, antibodies to heat shock protein receptor and nucleic acid molecules encoding heat shock protein receptor, and fragments thereof. The present invention further provides methods of use of the heat shock protein receptor positive cells, heat shock protein receptor protein, heat shock protein receptor antibodies, and heat shock protein receptor gene. Methods for identifying a molecule that enhance or block the function of heat shock protein receptor are included in the invention. The compositions of the invention may be used in various diagnostic and therapeutic applications in the area of cancer and infectious diseases.

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